

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02972 170840Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
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O 170818Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1002
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2972

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, XF, LE
SUBJECT: REPORTED STATEMENTS BY PLO LEADERS ON LEBANON,
MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND US POLICY

1. KUWAITI PRESS OF MAY 16 CARRIED REPORTS OF SEPARATE
INTERVIEWS WITH PLO LEADERS SALAH KHALLAF AND KHALID AL-HASSAN
WHO BOTH SPOKE LARGELY IN THEIR CAPACITIES AS FATAH CHIEFS.

2. KHALLAF REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSWOMAN FROM KUWAIT DAILY
AL-ANBA THAT THE RECENT INTRA-FATAH DISPUTE, WHICH REPRESENTED
A "SERIOUS THREAT TO THE UNITY OF THE MOVEMENT," WAS RESOLVED
BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND HAD BEEN EXPLAINED IN THE
STATEMENT WHICH THE COMMITTEE RELEASED. HE ASSERTED THAT
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02972 170840Z

FATAH WOULD NOW MAKE CONTACT WITH MANY ARAB GOVERNMENTS,
ELICIT THEIR VIEWS, AND "FORMULATE" A PALESTINIAN POSITION
ON LEBANON AND THE MIDDLE EAST, ADDING THAT PALESTINIAN
LEADERS HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE SOVIETS AND OTHER
"SOCIALIST STATES" THAT "OUR AREA IS NO LESS IMPORTANT
THAN THE HORN OF AFRICA..."

3. REGARDING LEBANON, KHALLAF REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IS "REGULATED BY PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS" AND THAT, WHILE "WE WILL NOT PERMIT...ANY DISARMAMENT OF OUR PEOPLE...WE ARE PREPARED TO FACILITATE LEBANESE RECONSTRUCTION." KHALLAF PROFESSED TO SEE NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE CAIRO AGREEMENT ON PALESTINIAN PRESENCE AND THE UNIFIL MANDATE, ADDING THAT THIS VIEW HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN THE RECENT FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT. HOWEVER, "WE SHALL NOT PERMIT UN FORCES TO BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR TERMINATING OUR MILITARY PRESENCE" IN SOUTH LEBANON. CONCERNING "CLASHES" BETWEEN FRENCH UNIFIL FORCES AND PALESTINIANS, KHALLAF CHARGED THAT FRENCH "MISCONDUCT" LED THEM TO "FIRE ON TWO LEBANESE WITHOUT WARNING."

4. KHALLAF CHARGED THAT THE US HAD ADOPTED "THE POLICY OF BEGIN," ON AUTONOMY FOR WEST BANK AND GAZA, IN THE "AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE SUNDAY TIMES" AND, THUS, MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT HAD "BECOME A MIRAGE" AND ALL SETTLEMENT TALKS SHOULD BE SET ASIDE. KHALLAF LISTED THE FOLLOWING FATAH POSITIONS: DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE STEADFASTNESS FRONT; REJECTION OF "BILATERAL PEACE TALKS;" OPPOSITION TO A "COVER UP TO SAVE SADAT;" AND MOBILIZATION FOR CONTINUED CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL.

5. KHALID AL-HASSAN SPOKE TO LOCAL REPORTERS AFTER
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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 02972 170840Z

SEEING THE KUWAITI FONMIN MAY 15. HE STRONGLY DENIED THAT THERE WERE ANY PLANS TO ESTABLISH A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. REGARDING FUTURE TRIPS BY PALESTINIAN LEADERS, HE MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE PLANS FOR CONTINUED CONSULTATION VISITS TO ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE USSR. THE DELEGATION TO MOSCOW PROBABLY WOULD GO IN JUNE.
SUTHERLAND

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